



# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 MARCH 1966

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1. Ecuador

At a meeting of Ecuador's leading politicians this afternoon Clemente Yerovi was selected as provisional civilian president. This came after the junta relinquished power to the military high command, and the people in turn took to the streets.

The situation this afternoon is bordering on chaos. Large-scale demonstrations are continuing in Guayaquil and the transport workers' strike has evidently gone nationwide. In Quito, the police are not bothering to restrain the transport workers, who are distributing liquor, blocking roads, and urging the people to violence. Ambassador Coerr has advised the State Department by phone that students have seized the national radio and are broadcasting appeals for a "national revolution."

The selection of Clemente Yerovi plus the imposition of a state of siege may help to quiet things somewhat, but we expect acute political instability for some time.

2. Yemen

Egypt says that it is willing to reopen the Harad peace conference on Yemen next month, but Saudi reaction to the proposal is still unclear. At the same time, Nasir is beginning to withdraw his troops in Yemen to new positions in the western part of the country; this should give them a more flexible defense with less logistic strain. The Saudis of course are suspicious of these moves and are again asking for US military gestures of support.

### 3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev's policy speech to the party congress was apparently a rather bland affair. Although the full text is not in, the TASS summary suggests that it was most notable for its lack of stridency and its skirting of controversial issues.

In the foreign policy section, Brezhnev repeated the standard charges of US "aggression" in Vietnam and again laid the blame for the deterioration in US-Soviet relations at the door of the US. On China, he made a passing reference to the "unsatisfactory" state of affairs and then restated Moscow's readiness to talk with the Chinese leaders.

Brezhnev's remarks on other foreign policy topics were also along standard lines. The net impression is that Moscow is not interested in major new moves at this time.

The summary of the speech contains no mention of either Khrushchev or Stalin by name. Khrushchev, however, was dealt with indirectly through references to "miscalculations" and "undue haste."

Brezhnev also indicated that there would be more undoing of Khrushchev's innovations by proposing several changes in the party's operations and structure. One of these, a decision to give the party presidium back its old name "politburo" carries with it heavy overtones of the Stalin era.

Brezhnev's discussion of economic matters was largely routine. His line on literature and art, however, was hard and threatening toward any departure from party policy.

Tomorrow the congress begins to "debate" the Brezhnev report.

#### 4. North Vietnam

Hanoi's first public comments on the Soviet party congress today indicate a continuing careful effort to remain in the middle between Moscow and Peking. Relations between the North Vietnamese and Soviet parties were vaguely characterized only as "the kind of fraternal relations which prevail in the socialist camp."

#### 5. South Vietnam

The cities of Hué and Da Nang were outwardly quiet again today, but there is no sign of a decline in political agitation against the Ky government. A transportation strike in Hué is reportedly planned for tomorrow.

There were signs today that Tri Quang's militant Buddhist faction in the north remains unwilling to accept Ky's compromise proposal for a partially representative council to draft a constitution. A Hué radio station broadcast a resolution signed by one of Tri Quang's associates which was as uncompromising as ever.

The resolution, which purports to originate with Buddhist chaplains in the I Corps area, threatens to call on Buddhist soldiers to act against the government if Saigon takes reprisals against the soldiers and students taking part in the "struggle."

Premier Ky is impatient to reassert the government's full authority in the northern provinces. He told Ambassador Lodge today that he intends to keep talking and explaining for another week. After that, he said, he will take "very strong measures" if necessary to re-establish control in the affected provinces.

## 6. Cambodia

Sihanouk publicly admitted for the first time last week that the Cambodians are "closing our eyes" to the smuggling of Cambodian rice to the Viet Cong. His statement probably comes from recognition of the futility of his earlier efforts to prevent the flow of rice to South Vietnam, where prices are higher than those his government offers.

## 7. Indonesia

The new Indonesian foreign minister, Adam Malik, has approached Ambassador Green directly for US assistance to finance emergency rice purchases. Malik said that it was now politically possible to receive openly US funds for food.

## 8. Communist China

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